AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

(1) Please replace the paragraph on page 1 of the specification beginning "To eliminate the" with the following amended paragraph:

To eliminate the above-described inconvenience, another conventional BHT is characterized as having the capability of executing the optimization processing for a flash memory only when a user does not touch or manipulate operation keys for a predetermined period of time (e.g., several seconds). However, this conventional BHT cannot predict the user's behavior. The user may touch or manipulate the operation keys during execution of the optimization processing. This conventional BHT does not accept any key entry ~~having~~ being done by the user during the execution of the optimization processing. In such a case, the user will perceive an undesirable time lag in his/her key operation.

(2) Please replace the paragraph on page 2 of the specification beginning "In view of the" with the following amended paragraph:

In view of the above-described problems, the present invention has an object to provide a portable information terminal capable of executing the optimization processing for a flash memory without giving an unpleasant feeling to a user and also capable of reducing the burden in preparing or creating the application program installed in this system.

(3) Please replace the paragraph on page 2 of the specification beginning "In order to accomplish" with the following amended paragraph:

In order to accomplish the above and other related objects, the present invention provides a first portable information terminal equipped with a flash memory including a data storing region and a directory region for storing programs and data. The first portable information terminal sets a memory optimization order instructing execution of optimization processing for the flash memory. The

optimization processing includes deletion of data stored in a designated area of the data storing region corresponding to information indicating deletion of the data which is recorded in the directory region. Through the optimization processing, the designated area of the data storing region is restored as an available data storing region. Furthermore, the first portable information terminal executes the optimization processing for the flash memory according to the memory optimization order in response to ~~stop of~~stopping electric power supply (automatic power off operation) to the portable information terminal.

(4) Please replace the paragraph on page 2 of the specification beginning "With this arrangement" with the following amended paragraph:

With this arrangement, it becomes possible to execute the optimization processing for the flash memory without giving the unpleasant feeling to a user. Furthermore, it becomes possible to reduce the burden in preparing or creating the application program installed in this system.

(5) Please replace the paragraph on page 2 of the specification beginning "" with the following amended paragraph:

According to an embodiment of the present invention, it is preferable that the first portable information terminal selectively executes the optimization processing for the flash memory in response to ~~stop of~~stopping electric power supply (automatic power off) to the portable information terminal. And, the first portable information terminal adjusts an optimization size for the flash memory.

(6) Please replace the paragraph on page 6 of the specification beginning "When it is judged" with the following amended paragraph:

When it is judged that the predetermined time has elapsed (i.e., YES in step S1), the control flow proceeds to the next step S2. It is then checked in step S2 whether or not a memory optimization order instructing execution of optimization

processing for the flush memory 13 is set so as to be executed in response to ~~stop of~~stopping electric power supply (automatic power off) to the components of BHT 1. When the setting of the optimization processing for the flush memory 13 is present, namely when it is judged that the memory optimization order is set so as to be executed in response to ~~stop of~~stopping electric power supply to the components of BHT 1 (i.e., YES in step S2), the control flow proceeds to the next step S3. Then, in step S3, the optimization processing for the flash memory 13 is executed according to the memory optimization order. The flash memory 13 includes a data storing region and a directory region for storing programs and data. This optimization processing makes it possible for the flash memory 13 to delete the data stored in a designated area of the data storing region corresponding to information indicating deletion of the data which is recorded in the directory region. Through the optimization processing, the designated area of the data storing region is restored as an available data storing region.

(7) Please replace the paragraph beginning "Furthermore, according to" on page 6 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Furthermore, according to the first embodiment of the present invention, BHT 1 selectively determines whether or not the above-described optimization processing for the flash memory 13 should be executed in response to ~~stop of~~ stopping electric power supply (power off operation) to BHT 1. In other words, BHT 1 has a function of invalidating the memory optimization order so as not to execute the optimization processing for the flash memory 13 when the electric power supply to BHT 1 is stopped.

(8) Please replace the paragraph beginning "Furthermore, in the case that" on page 7 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Furthermore, in the case that the memory optimization order is effectively executed in response to ~~stop of~~stopping electric power supply (automatic power off operation) to BHT 1, BHT 1 can adjust an optimization size for the flash memory

13. These settings are feasible by allowing a user to manually select or input his/her preference with respect to the contents of the settings ~~thought~~ through the operation keys of the operating section 10 with ~~aide~~ aid of a setting menu screen on the display section 9.

(9) Please replace the paragraph beginning "① Setting with" on page 7 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

① Setting with respect to "execution"/"cancellation" of automatic optimization processing for the flash memory 13 in response to ~~stop of~~stopping electric power supply to BHT 1.

(10) Please replace the paragraph beginning "As apparent from" on page 7 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

As apparent from the foregoing description, the first embodiment of the present invention provides the portable information terminal (BHT 1) which executes the optimization processing for the flash memory in response to ~~stop of~~ stopping electric power supply (automatic power off operation) to the portable information terminal. In other words, the optimization processing for the flash memory is executed without giving adverse influence to the user's manipulation ~~for~~of the portable information terminal through the operation keys. Thus, it becomes possible to execute the optimization processing for the flash memory without giving an unpleasant feeling to the user. Furthermore, it becomes possible to reduce the burden in preparing or creating the application program installed in this system.

(11) Please replace the paragraph beginning "Furthermore, according to" on page 8 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Furthermore, according to the above-described first embodiment of the present invention, the portable information terminal (BHT 1) allows the user to

select execution/cancellation of the optimization processing for the flash memory according to his/her preference. Thus, the portable information terminal selectively executes the optimization processing for the flash memory in response to ~~step of~~stopping electric power supply (automatic power off operation) to the portable information terminal. Furthermore, when the optimization processing for the flash memory is performed, the portable information terminal (BHT 1) allows the user to adjust the optimization size for the flash memory according to his/her preference.